

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “2 days” and insert “3 days”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4869 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4868

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 4869 to amendment No. 4868.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following conference report, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOYD R. BUSER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate a distinguished Kentuckian and exceptional physician who brings great honor to the Bluegrass State. Dr. Boyd R. Buser, doctor of osteopathic medicine, is the vice president for health affairs and dean for the University of Pikeville's Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, or UP-KYCOM. He is also the president-elect for the American Osteopathic Association, AOA, and will be installed as that organization's president next month at its next annual meeting in Chicago.

Dr. Buser earned his osteopathic medical degree in 1981 and has served

as a physician for 35 years. Originally from Iowa, he completed an osteopathic internship in Rhode Island before proudly calling Kentucky his home. He is board certified in family practice, as well as osteopathic manipulative medicine.

He has taught extensively around the world for the past 15 years and has represented the American osteopathic profession in the World Health Organization. He is an officer of the board of directors of the Osteopathic International Alliance. He has been a member of the AOA's board of trustees since 2004 and has served the AOA in a number of other capacities as well before assuming the mantle of president.

Dr. Buser has been recognized by the medical community with many awards for his achievements. In 1994, the AOA, along with the American Osteopathic Foundation, named him the osteopathic profession's “Educator of the Year.” The Maine Osteopathic Association presented him with the Roswell Bates Award in 1994 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1996 and 2007. He is also a current member of the Kentucky Institute of Medicine and the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure.

A fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, Dr. Buser is past president of the American Academy of Osteopathy, AAO. He is also a past chair of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, NBOME, and was a founding member of the board of directors of the Osteopathic International Alliance.

Dr. Buser was the recipient of the A.T. Still Medallion of Honor from the AAO in 2010. He also received the Riland Medal for Public Service from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2013, as well as the Santucci Award for outstanding contributions to the mission of NBOME. In 2015, he received the Pioneer of Osteopathic Medicine Award from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Kentucky is very proud that Dr. Buser is the second dean from UP-KYCOM to serve as AOA's president; the first was Dr. John Strosnider, the founding dean of UP-KYCOM, in 2006. UP-KYCOM was founded in 1997, and since then, more than 1,000 physicians have graduated from that institution. Nearly 70 percent of them serve in primary care, frequently in rural areas. UP-KYCOM is supplying doctors to the regions of Kentucky and the Nation who need them the most.

I want to praise Dr. Buser for his many awards and accomplishments and thank him for bringing his talents and his expertise to Kentucky. The Bluegrass State is pleased to reap the benefits from his efforts to heal and comfort the sick. It is truly an honor for him to ascend to the presidency of the American Osteopathic Association, and we are glad to see him in that position. I know his colleagues at UP-KYCOM are equally pleased for him, and I wish him great success in his new role.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, June 25 marked 20 years since the devastating bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. This horrifying and evil act killed 19 U.S. airmen and wounded nearly 500 others, 372 of whom were American.

The Khobar Towers were part of a housing complex where American, British, and French troops lived. The complex housed nearly 2,000 military members. The night of the attack, U.S. Air Force SSGT Alfred Guerrero was on patrol and witnessed a gasoline truck drive up to the complex perimeter fence. The driver parked the gasoline truck and then immediately sprinted to the waiting vehicle where he met two other assailants who were acting as lookouts. The car then sped off. Sergeant Guerrero only had a few moments to respond, but tried bravely to begin an evacuation of the building. Tragically, there was not enough time before the truck bomb exploded.

A member of my U.S. Capitol Police security detail, Special Agent Steve Sterling, was in an adjacent building when the attack took place. Steve, an airman first class at the time, was in the lobby of his building, making a call to the United States, when the blast erupted. He was thrown from his seat, but protected from further damage by the plywood boards surrounding the phone booth. Every other person in the lobby of his building was cut and bleeding from the debris and broken shards of glass. Later, Steve learned that four of his coworkers, whom he had just left only moments prior, were severely injured.

After waiting a few seconds to get their bearings, Steve and the other servicemembers who suffered only minor injuries rushed to the blast site. They were shocked to see the entire face of building No. 131 completely ripped off. Immediately, Steve and others started pulling people from the fallen rubble and setting up a triage. They worked through the night and into the early morning. They continued to sift through piles of debris for several days after.

If it were not for the brave efforts of the servicemembers like Steve Sterling, perhaps other lives would have been lost. Today, as we honor those who were lost and injured in the attack, I honor all of the military personnel who responded. I thank them for their selflessness and courage.

The explosion caused by the truck bomb was so great, it was heard from more than 20 miles away and left a hole in the ground nearly 35 feet deep. It was discovered later that this bombing had been planned for 3 years. We also learned it was carried out by a militant group that sought solely to target members of our military. This disgusting act was one of the most brazen attacks on American military personnel. Sadly, it was not the last.

It is important that we do not forget the victims whose lives were lost as a